

THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
MABLETHORPE & SUTTON

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1949



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS
MABLETHORPE AND SUTTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1949 on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Urban District, which is prepared according to the prescribed statutory requirements.

The vital statistics do not present the case of the local population in a very flattering light. Not only do the general birth and death rates compare unfavourably with those for the country as a whole, but the deaths exceed the births, which has happened only once here in the past seven years. The death rate affecting children under the age of one year shares in the inferior comparison with the national figure. Even that the comparability factor, now available, provides for the computation of a more accurate comparison of the local-national general death rates by allowances for age group constitution of the local population, perhaps the more realistic understanding of the high local rate is gained from the knowledge that 77% of the total deaths occurred in persons over 65 years old. Apart from the relatively large number of deaths in the 0/1 year age group, the other groups show no alteration from the usual.

A review of events in the field of sanitary circumstances does not show any outstanding achievement or require much comment, though this does not minimise the importance of the results. The services received the usual degree of satisfactory supervision and the operative work at the Trusthorpe sewers had made satisfactory progress. An unusual period of drought during the year revealed the limitation of the existing pumping machinery to deliver water to cope with emergency demands. The Council's technical advisers were instructed to determine the best practical means of averting future risks of this nature so that approval for the remedial measures might be obtained from the Ministry. Obviously, the risks seem too great to be hopefully deferred.

A slightly smaller number of houses was completed compared with the preceding year, and though the waiting list was not negligible, the same degree of hardship did not appear to exist in housing needs as in many urban districts. This was evident by the absence of any known overcrowding. The growing extent of caravan holidaying pointed to the Council, like to many other authorities, being faced with the problem of their stricter control. To secure this, an overhaul of the relating Public Health enactments seems

indicated to keep pace with the extent of this matter of growing social importance.

At a seaside resort, questions concerning food and catering require special attention to secure trade co-operation against unsatisfactory conditions which might lead to complaints or result in cases of food poisoning. No case of the latter was reported or known, and the only complaint concerned the methods of transporting meat between the central depot and the retailer. Details of conditions are set out under the particular food heads in the body of the report, but attention is particularly directed to the splendid change in the district milk supply. When it is remembered that the first active steps were taken in 1945 by this Authority to improve milk conditions, the extent of the change will be appreciated. The information obtained from the study of cross section sampling that year did not inspire optimism but the results show how far intelligent planning and the enthusiastic endeavours of the Sanitary Inspector have been rewarded.

It is a pleasure to record the help and co-operation given by Mr. Long during the year, which in spite of the distance between our Offices, resulted in good team work—a very necessary essential for successful efforts.

I also wish to take advantage of this occasion to express my gratitude to the Chairman and the Members of the Public Health Committee for their valuable help and encouragement during the year which materially assisted the work of the department and influenced in no small way the results.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. KERRIGAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1950.

Mablethorpe & Sutton Urban District
Council

ANNUAL REPORT
on the
Health and Sanitary Conditions
for the year 1949

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health—

W. J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Milk Inspector—

C. V. LONG, B.E.M., C.R.San.I.

Engineer and Surveyor—

E. JORDAN, M.I.M. & Cy.E., M.R.San.I., M.I.S.E.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the Urban District, including 717 acres of Foreshore	7,193 acres
Registrar General's estimate of Civilian Population	5,310
Density per acre	0.7
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,008
Rateable Value of Inhabited Houses	£26,646
Total Rateable Value (1/4/49 - 31/3/50)	£39,253
Product of a penny rate	£152 16s. od.

Vital Statistics.

NOTE.—Figures in brackets give corresponding rates for England and Wales).

Births.

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
(a)	Live :			
	Legitimate ..	78	39	39
	Illegitimate ..	3	2	1
		—	—	—
		81	41	40
		—	—	—
(b)	Still	N I L .		
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population ..		15.3	(16.7)	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population ..		0.00	(0.39)	

Deaths.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
	91	40	51
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population ..	17.1		
Comparative Death Rate (comparability factor 0.77) ..	13.2	(11.7)	
Deaths from maternal causes	Nil.		

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—

Causes and ages at death :—

Pneumonia	{ 9 months. 5 months.
Prematurity	{ 12 hours. 7 days.

Death Rate per 1,000 live births 49 (32)

AGES AT DEATH.											
Ages in Years.	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75+	Total
Deaths	4	—	—	1	3	2	4	7	30	40	91

CANCER DEATHS.										
Years	Under 40	40/45	45/50	50/55	55/60	60/65	65/70	70/75	75+	Total
Cases	—	1	—	—	1	2	3	—	5	12

Total Causes of Death in the Area, 1949.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	2
2. Influenza	2	—
3. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	4
4. Cancer of Breast	—	1
5. Cancer of all other sites	3	2
6. Diabetes	1	2
7. Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions ..	3	5
8. Heart Diseases	12	21
9. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	2
10. Pneumonia	1	1
11. Other Respiratory Diseases ..	1	1
12. Other Digestive Diseases	1	—
13. Nephritis	—	2
14. Premature Birth	1	1
15. Suicide	—	1
16. Other Violent Causes	2	3
17. All Other Causes	5	3
	40	51

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Lincoln Public Health Laboratory continued to provide a highly satisfactory service for the bacteriological examination of all our samples. Samples were sent by bus and collected on arrival after a journey occupying slightly over two hours. Ice Cream samples were ice packed.

The small number of chemical analyses required were done by Mr. Taylor, Nottingham, at prescribed fees.

Ambulance Facilities.

The provisions made by the County Council adequately answered the district needs. There are critics of the service who confound adequate provision with abuse of privilege and it is likely in the early stages that sections of the public were pampered by transport facilities in a manner not originally intended.

Nursing in the Home.

I am indebted to Dr. Campbell, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following factual information under this head, which shows the work done by the District nurses during the year.

<i>Total Cases Visited</i>	<i>Midwifery only</i>	<i>Total Visits</i>
181	17	5,322

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

During the year, the Welfare Centre which had been opened at Sutton in 1948 for the convenience of mothers in that area required to be closed on account of lack of attendance. No change took place at the Mablethorpe centre.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water.

Regular samples of the public supply water were subjected to bacteriological examination and two chemical analyses were done. A total of 25 samples showed by bacteriological examination that 22 samples were satisfactory, one doubtful, and two unsatisfactory. The latter were obtained from taps and the resultant check suggested casual contamination at the tap source. Two samples only were taken from private supplies one of which was unsatisfactory.

There was no change in conditions existing, which were included in my report of last year.

At the height of the holiday season the Council was gravely concerned about the pumping resources. The bore pump required to be kept continuously working over 24 hour stretches, but in spite of this, the water level at the tower dropped to danger limits. The position was viewed with anxiety at the time, and following the Surveyor's report concerning the urgent need for augmenting the pumping machinery, the Council at once instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare the necessary scheme to satisfy the demands. It appeared obvious to those familiar with the conditions that the existing pumping machinery was unable to provide adequately for a safety margin supply, and consequently called for attention to counter unnecessary risk.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Closets.

Number of houses with privy vaults in district	9
Number of houses with pail closets in district	117
Number of pail closets repaired	1
Number of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles	6
Number of houses with water-closets in district	Remainder
Number of water-closets repaired	11

Drains.

Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	230
Drains unstopped, repaired, etc.	74
Waste, pipes, disconnected, repaired, etc.	5
Existing soil pipes, etc., renewed or repaired	5

Cesspools.

The Sanitary Inspector reported the abolition of five cesspools following connections to the public sewers and the provision of four new cesspools to replace defectives. Emptying was carried out weekly or fortnightly as conditions required.

Trusthorpe Sewage Scheme.

This scheme had happily arrived at the stage of near completion of the sewers which had been laid to a length of 1,577 yards at the end of the year. This matter has been given regular mention in my reports since 1944 and it is a pleasure to think it will shortly have arrived at that stage of maturity to promote it to the working units.

Sewage Works.

The Sutton works sustained damage by sea water saturation which necessitated renewal of the media for the filter beds. As previously pointed out these disposal works fall far short of required standards and when circumstances permit will require major reconstruction.

Foreshore Public Conveniences.

The Sanitary Inspector during the year called attention to the state of these Council owned properties regarding the needs for improvement in the hygienic standard of their maintenance and attention to the interior decoration. As he pointed out at the time, Council owned properties should set an example in these ways and they should not be regarded as commercial propositions.

Disinfection.

Rooms disinfected	10
(a) Ordinary infectious disease	7
(b) Tuberculosis	3
Rooms stripped and cleansed	Nil.
Number of premises disinfested	4

House Refuse.

Number of houses using dustbins.. .. . 2,000 (approx.)

There is weekly scavenging and the final disposal is by controlled tipping.

Nuisances.

Total number of nuisances during the year	..	..	336
(1) Abated as result of informal action by S.I...	..	..	313
(2) Reported to Council	{ statutory notices issued		.. 7
	{ ,, ,, not issued..		16

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

The Sanitary Inspector reported 127 visits made for this purpose and mentioned that tests in the early part of the year showed the absence of rats in the sewers.

Factories and Workshops Act, 1937.

Visits made	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Infringements discovered	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Infringements remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	9

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF HOUSES.

Total number of new Houses erected during the year ..	29
(1) By the Local Authority	24
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil.
(3) By other bodies or persons	5

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	92
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	172
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	7
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	27
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	39

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	31
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	Nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—							
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings	..	..	..	..	..	7
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936							
	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.

There were no cases known or reported of overcrowding during the year.

The houses erected during the year were 5 less than the previous year. 20 of the Waterloo Road site were occupied and it was expected the remaining 20 would shortly be fit for occupation. The other Council house completions were at the Cade Field site.

It will be noticed under the foregoing heading of inspections of dwelling-houses that 7 houses were considered unfit. Six of these were allowed to be converted for 'summer letting only' the purpose for which they were originally designed—and in the remaining case, the Committee having interviewed the owner allowed owner-occupation after essential repairs were completed.

It is always a pleasing feature to observe the maximum relationship that exists between defects found and remedied.

Perhaps the most satisfactory information is concerned with the negative. I refer to the overcrowding state.

Movable Dwellings.

The number of tents and vans reported daily in the district during the peak of the season was 856 which housed approximately 3,850 persons.

These numbers give a slight idea of the problem which confronts authorities to control this increasingly popular form of holiday life. Camping holiday life cannot be expected to produce

exemplary standards of hygienic living and the strictest supervision is necessary to prevent undesirable results from collective laxities. To my mind, it is unreasonable to expect the Sanitary Inspector to be wholly responsible for supervision of the camps during the busiest time of the year. In view of the extent and importance of the work it would seem necessary to employ an official on a part-time basis—or transfer the duties of an existing official for the required matter of weeks—to patrol the sites daily and report results to the Sanitary Inspector.

The Council, like all public bodies similarly affected, was also very concerned about the individual trailer problem. Neither legislation nor administration has kept pace with the growth of this matter and it is high time that the legal measures for their better control should be revised and tightened.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Bakehouses.

Number in district	..	..	..	..	..	6
Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	28
Number of contraventions		..	..	..	..	6
Defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	6

Meat.

During the year, as the result of observations kept on the vehicles, representations were made to the Ministry of Food in respect of the very unsatisfactory methods of transporting and handling the meat. Improvement followed, but until proper vehicles and hygienic covers are available the methods will remain far short of the desirable.

Retail shops in the district were satisfactorily conducted and one premises was in process of being modernised.

Cafes, Kitchens and Make Up Rooms.

In a sea-side town, premises of this nature require special supervision owing to high pressure working during the most dangerous months in dealing with perishable foods. The Sanitary Inspector reported having made 140 visits to discover some 14 defects which were not of a serious nature. The Inspector previously made the point, which is very worthy of consideration, that the snack bars of the foreshore would not impress visitors on account of the faults—mainly structural—arising out of their very temporary life. A suggested alternative would be for the Council to provide permanent buildings for renting which would improve the hygienic and aesthetic standards.

Ice Cream.

The producer-retailer number of three remained the same as previous year but the premises registered “for sale only” increased to 34. A total of 69 samples was taken for the following reasons :—

Examinations to determine grade	..	..	..	49
Diagnostic re technical troubles in production	..	..	..	10
Examinations relative to fat content	..	..	..	10

Grade results were as below :—

	<i>Samples Grading</i>				% Grade 1.	% Grades 1 and 2.
	1.	2.	3.	4.		
(a) Manufactured in District—						
Producer A ..	9	3	3	—	60	80
B ..	6	3	2	—	55	82
C ..	8	3	2	2	53	73
(b) Manufactured ex District ..	3	4	—	1	38	87
TOTALS ..	26	13	7	3		

The national grading standard suggests that over a six-monthly period 50% of a vendor's samples should be in Grade 1, 80% in Grades 1 or 2 and none in Grade 4. The numbers from the individual retailers—head (b)—are too small to assess thus, but an indication is obtained of the aggregate by this analysis.

The entries under Grade 4 in the local production were not concerned with any slackness in methods but to a technical fault in the machinery which when located by serial sample taking was immediately put right. The Sanitary Inspector reported very favourably on the hygienic care surrounding production and on the state of the retail premises. It is felt that the local production has now arrived at that adult stage of reliability which will merit less supervisory attention in the future to allow more time for concentrating on the retail trade, concerned with outside production.

There is no standard regarding the fat content except the minimal expected by way of check on the proper use of allocations for this purpose. The local samples ranged on average from 4.5 to 5.5 percentage oil and fat content.

Milk.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 became effective from October 1st, to result in the division of supervision—the production side after that date becoming the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the distribution side the liability of

the Local Authority. The classified register of producers in the district was handed over on the operational date.

Sampling was carried out and supervision over all fields maintained up to the time of handing over. The sample results are now mainly of academic interest but are briefly stated by way of records.

<i>Type of Samples</i>			<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Not Satisfactory</i>	<i>% Satisfactory</i>
Accredited	..	..	34	15	70
Ungraded	..	..	6	2	75
Heat Treated	(all				
classes)	..	..	28	3	90

All the samples referred to above were taken before October 1st except three accredited and eight pasteurised which were all satisfactory. The extraordinary all round improvement in the sample results will be fully appreciated in comparison with those of the previous year.

Even more striking in its local effect than the new legislative measures, was the change in the retail supply for the district. All the eleven local retailers sold either pasteurised or sterilised milk, and two only, included accredited (raw) as part of their supply. In practice this means, according to reliable information, that about 89% of the public received heat treated milk, bottled at the depots, and about 11% accredited raw. Moreover, at the end of the year a supply of T.T. pasteurised became available—the first introduction of this type into any of the districts in the immediate locality. The Mablethorpe school supply changed over from raw accredited to pasteurised, to fall into the general line.

These results indicate the partially fulfilled aim of the directive of our efforts for the past few years. The Sanitary Inspector was more optimistic than I about the success of his intentions to provide a safe supply over a period based on Soviet time planning, but results have more than justified his efforts. It is a pleasure to record that the Inspector's enthusiasm and persuasion were the factors that account for the improvement. Now that T.T. pasteur-

ised supplies have become available, there is every hope to anticipate further exemplary improvements which will result in the Council's liability over distribution being reduced to nominal proportions.

Model Bye-Laws.

The Council decided to adopt the Model Bye-Laws Series 1 of the Ministry of Food, relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air. No time was lost in making application for the necessary sanction to have them put into operation.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during 1949:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Case Rates per 1,000 of civilian population.</i>
Pneumonia	2	1	0.38 (0.80)
Measles	48	—	9.04 (8.95)
Scarlet Fever.. ..	3	—	0.56 (1.63)
Poliomyelitis	2	2	0.38 (0.13)
Whooping Cough	5	—	0.94 (2.39)
Diphtheria	—	—	0.00 (0.04)
Other cases which proved to be non infectious	2	2	
TOTALS	62	5	

The case rates show the disease notifications per 1,000 of the population, compared with the figures in brackets representing the country as a whole. There were no deaths resulting from infectious disease causes.

There was a sharp outbreak of measles, confined almost entirely to the Mablethorpe area, during February and March. The two poliomyelitis cases occurred in children aged 4 and 11/12 years and were notified in September.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunised during the year :—

(a) 0 to 4 years	42
(b) 5 to 14 years	11
Booster treatments	78

These totals do not include cases done privately.

The result of school survey based on information supplied by the headmasters of the two local schools showed that an average of 86% of the children was immunised.

Vaccinations.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the return below of the total vaccinations, relating to the Urban District residents, under particular age groups.

<i>Ages.</i>	<i>under 1 year</i>	<i>1-4 yrs.</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15+</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary vaccinations..	9	7	—	4	20
Re-vaccinations ..	—	1	—	—	1

Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Non-Respiratory</i>				<i>Non-Respiratory</i>			
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0 ..								
1 ..			1					
5 ..								
15 ..						1		
25 ..		1			1	1		
35 ..	1	1						
45 ..	1							
55 ..					1			
65+ ..	1							
TOTALS ..	3	2	1	—	2	2	—	—

There were two transfer cases in addition to above during the year.

Report of Analysis of Sewage Effluents.

14th October, 1949.

Received 7th October, 1949 from Mablethorpe & Sutton Urban District Council.

Mark 1.—Sewage Effluent taken from Sutton on Sea Sewage Disposal Works.

Mark 2.—Sewage Effluent taken from Mablethorpe Sewage Disposal Works.

These effluents contain per 100,000 parts :

				<i>Sutton on Sea. Mablethorpe.</i>	
Total Solids dried at 100 °C	..	..	..	158.00	48.00
Suspended Matter	..	..	..	1.50	2.00
Chlorides as chlorine	..	..	..	44.73	12.78
Nitrate Nitrogen..	..	..	..	1.25	1.60
Nitrite Nitrogen ..	..	..	..	0.280	0.0275
Free Ammonia ..	..	..	..	0.5618	0.6956
Albuminoid Ammonia ..	..	..	..	0.1440	0.1280
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 KMnO ₄					
In (a) 3 minutes	..	..	..	0.28	0.51
(b) 4 hours at 80 °F.	..	..	..	1.26	1.22
pH Value	..	..	..	7.30	6.90
5 days Biological Oxygen Demand at					
65 °F	..	..	..	1.40	1.80
5 days Incubation Test at 80 °F.	..	..	..	Stable	Stable.

Observations :—

These Sewage Effluents could be classified as “fairly satisfactory” and of passable chemical quality for free discharge into inland waters.

W. W. TAYLOR, *Public Analyst.*

APPENDIX.

Report of Analysis of Waters.

Received 7th October, 1949 from Mablethorpe and Sutton U.D.C.

Mark—Town Water direct from Bore, Sutton on Sea ; Town Water direct from Bore, Mablethorpe.

These samples contain per million parts :—

			<i>Sutton Bore</i>	<i>Mablethorpe Bore</i>
Total Solids dried at 180°C.	..	..	810.00	410.00
Suspended Matter .. ..	..	..	absent	absent
Chlorides as chlorine .. ..	..	..	152.60	24.90
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrate ..	..	..	absent	absent
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrite ..	..	..	absent	absent
Free Ammonia .. ..	..	..	0.4550	0.3400
Albuminoid Ammonia .. ..	..	..	0.0560	0.0040
Temporary Hardness .. ..	..	..	80.00	75.00
Permanent Hardness .. ..	..	..	0.00	0.00
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80°F				
from N/80 KMnO ₄ .. ..	..	..	0.40	0.16
pH value .. ..	..	..	8.50	8.30
Appearance .. ..	..	..	Clear & Bright	Clear & Bright
Odour .. ..	..	..	none	none
Taste and Colour .. ..	..	..	normal	normal
Heavy Metals .. ..	..	..	absent	absent
Free Chlorine .. ..	..	..	absent	absent
Sodium Carbonate equivalent to ..	..	..	323.3	265.0

Both waters have undergone small changes in chemical quality by comparison with the analyses made in April, 1948, but both waters can be considered as of suitable chemical quality for human consumption, domestic and dairy purposes provided that the bacteriological examinations are adjudged to be satisfactory.

(Signed), W. W. TAYLOR, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

